

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

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Grant Application Period Opens For Wildland Fire Mitigation Project Funding

\$2 million available

Salt Lake City – The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is accepting grant applications for projects designed to reduce the size and frequency of wildland fires. The grants are being awarded through the newly created Invasive Species Mitigation Fund (ISMF) to reduce threats to public safety, the environment, and local economies due to catastrophic fires which are often fueled by invasive weeds.

Up to \$2 million is available for grants to public or private entities. Applications for projects on federal lands will require matching funds. Applicants are encouraged to partner with local, state and federal government entities as well as with private individuals or groups to develop large-scale project proposals that will work across broad land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries. Projects will be rated based on their size, cost and quality. Project quality considerations will include the project's potential to prevent air pollution, flooding, reduced visibility on highways, soil erosion, degraded water quality, release of carbon, damage to wildlife habitat or livestock forage, and negative economic impacts to rural communities.

Applications will be accepted from May 15 to July 1, 2008 and project selections made by August 1, 2008. Applications may be obtained on-line at: www.ag.utah.gov or by contacting: Margaret E. Grochocki, c/o Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, P.O. Box 146500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6500. Applications should be submitted to Margaret E. Grochocki at the above address, and questions directed to UDAF Deputy Commissioner, Kathleen Clarke, at 801-538-4916.

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